

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 8, 2004. Claims 1-3 and 19-51 were pending in the Application. The Examiner objects to Claims 2-3, 22, 27-28, 30, 34, 36-37, 39-40, 42, 47-48, and 50 and rejects Claims 1, 19, 20-21, 23-26, 29, 31-33, 35, 38, 41, 43-46, 49, and 51. Applicants amend Claims 1, 3, 25, 28, 32, 37, 38, 40, 45, and 48 and cancel Claims 2, 27, 35, 36, 39, and 47 to place the Application in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's indications. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Specification Objection

The Examiner objects to the disclosure due to perceived informalities. Applicants amend the specification as suggested by the Examiner in response to the objection. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objects to Claims 2-3, 22, 27-28, 30, 34, 36-37, 39-40, 42, 47-48, and 50 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the timely and favorable consideration of these claims.

To place the Application in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's indications, Applicants amend independent Claims 1, 25, 32, 38, and 45 respectively to include the elements of Claims 2, 27, 35 and 36, 39, and 47, which Applicants now cancel. Applicants also amend Claims 3, 28, 37, 40, and 48 to depend from Claims 1, 25, 32, 38, and 45 respectively. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 25, 32, 38, and 45 now reflect originally submitted elements that the Examiner has indicated to be allowable, and the remaining claims all depend from allowable independent claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 19, 20-21, 23-26, 29, 31-33, 35, 38, 41, 43-46, 49, and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,546,379, which issued to Thaweethai, et al. ("*Thaweethai*"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,247,347, which issued to Litteral, et al. ("*Litteral*"). Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of these claims based on *Thaweethai* in view of *Litteral* is obviated for the reasons discussed above and thus request withdrawal of this rejection. Although Applicants believe these claims without amendment are allowable over *Thaweethai* in view of *Litteral*, Applicants amend and cancel various claims as discussed above to expedite issuance of this Application. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the original claims without amendment in copending and future applications.

Conclusion

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
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